

Office of Public Health Informatics

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

The Problem:

- ❑ Maine has local health departments in only the two largest cities. Public health functions are carried out primarily by a centralized Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention with limited resources.
- ❑ Informatics tools are a requirement for effective business, yet system development is typically an expensive and risky endeavor and must be rigorously managed.
- ❑ Access to health resources, including information for program management varies across the state.
- ❑ Population and disease surveillance data are necessary for protecting the public's health.
- ❑ Computer technology has made possible extensive use of data for program planning, monitoring and evaluation. The technology also assists communication and development of organizational systems.



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The Office of Public Health Informatics (OPHI), organizationally located in the Division of Public Health Systems of the Maine CDC, provides Center-wide standards, resources and coordination of information systems in order to assure best and most efficient practices in the management of public health information, encompassing the strategic application and management of information systems for the purpose of producing knowledge to drive and inform public health activities within the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Functions:

- ❑ The OPHI Director is responsible for liaison with the Department's information technology managers and staff, and works to secure needed technical resources to meet the ongoing and project-specific IT staffing needs of the Maine CDC.
- ❑ OPHI develops and proposes strategic informatics planning incorporating prioritized objectives in MCDC. Planned approaches support MCDC and DHHS strategic initiatives and ensure accomplishment of public health goals.
- ❑ OPHI develops analysis and reporting tools to accomplish population based assessment and inform public health interventions. OPHI also assesses tools and processes to accomplish new strategic directives.
- ❑ OPHI implements and supports standardized project management methodologies, project planning, tracking, reporting and assessment in order to ensure success in information system development for public health goals.
- ❑ OPHI is responsible for the full implementation of the Integrated Public Health System, which will provide: (1) the strategic and technical umbrella for MCDC informatics systems; (2) interoperability and data exchange standards and tools; (3) common health partner and organizational data; (4) sophisticated population based analyses and reporting; and (5) increased speed and sophistication of detection and communications for public health business

Funding Sources:

Federal Center for Disease Control (CDC) Bioterrorism Funding, Federal Epidemiology Laboratory Capacity Funding

Budget: \$2 million (FY06)

Staff Count: 3